

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Resources for Dealing with Intimate Partner Violence and Suicide During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This document is intended to serve as guidance from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to provide resources for dealing with intimate partner violence and suicidal thoughts during the COVID-19 pandemic. While social distancing is crucial to slowing the spread of COVID-19, sheltering in place and spending increased time at home can pose additional challenges or dangers to people experiencing suicidal ideation or intimate partner violence, which includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm. **If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911.**

Illinois Protective Orders:

Illinois law offers many different Protective Orders, including Firearms Restraining Orders. Orders of Protection (OPs) can offer a variety of different remedies, like allowing the victim to retain possession of the residence and care of children. The Firearms Restraining Order (FRO) requires the temporary removal and prohibition of firearms for people who pose an imminent, significant danger to themselves or others. You can obtain both of these Orders to protect yourself or your family by submitting forms to a court. Courts are hearing cases. [Your county's court](#) and [local domestic violence agencies](#) may have additional information and may be able to provide assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **[Domestic Violence Orders of Protection \(OP\)](#)**: These Orders can offer protections such as 'stay-away' provisions, possession of the residence, and required counseling provisions. OPs are available to a wide-range of family & household members, including former partners, former spouses, and those who you share a child in common. File the forms with the circuit clerk at the [courthouse in the county](#) where you live, where the abuser lives, where the events happened, or where you fled for safety. However, removing firearms through this process requires a full hearing, which gives the respondent an opportunity to appear. Please visit the [Illinois Courts](#) for more up-to-date information about your court, and [Illinois Legal Aid Online](#) to learn how to petition for an OP.
- **[Civil No Contact Order](#)**: Is a court order that can protect you and your family or household members from an abuser if you are the victim of **non-consensual sexual conduct** or **non-consensual sexual penetration**. Unlike the domestic violence order of protection, you do not need to have a specific relationship with the abuser to get a civil no contact order. These orders offer protections including 'stay-away' provisions and no-contact provisions. Judges can also order the abuser to not engage in any other actions that they believe would harm you. You can file for a civil no contact order in the circuit court in the county where you live, the county where the abuser lives, or the county where the incident(s) occurred. You can learn more about these orders at [Illinois Legal Aid Online](#).

- **Stalking No Contact Orders (SNCO)**: Is a court order that can order a stalker to stop following or monitoring you, threatening you, talking or writing to you, **including electronic communication**, interfering or damaging your property, or coming near you, your workplace, and/or your property. An SNCO can be requested by you as a victim, or on behalf of a child or **disabled** or elderly **adult** who is the victim of stalking. You can file for an SNCO with the **circuit clerk** at the courthouse in the county where you live, where the stalker lives, or where the events happened. To learn more about SNCO, visit **Illinois Legal Aid Online** and **WomensLaw.org**.
- **The Firearms Restraining Order (FRO)**: Is a civil order to immediately remove firearms from a respondent and temporarily prohibit someone who is at-risk of harming themselves or others from possessing or purchasing firearms. These orders can be petitioned for directly by immediate family members, household members, and law enforcement, providing them a judicial pathway to proactively address their concerns about someone in their life. To petition directly for a FRO, you must file the petition in the Circuit Court where the respondent lives. If someone is not eligible to petition directly because they do not fit the 'Family & Household Member' definition, they can request law enforcement to petition on their behalf. An emergency order can initially be issued for up to 14 days, and can be extended six months depending on the result of a full hearing. By removing firearms, the FRO law creates safer circumstances for the individual to seek treatment, stabilize their behavior, and access resources to address the underlying causes of their dangerous behaviors. Learn more about the FRO law at **Speak for Safety Illinois**, and **Illinois Legal Aid Online**. Please visit the **Illinois Court website** for more up-to-date information about your court.

Legal Aid Clinics

Many legal aid clinics are offering telephone and virtual appointments while their physical offices are closed. These clinics provide free or low-cost legal assistance for survivors of intimate partner violence. To find a clinic that works in your region, visit the **Attorney General's Office** for a list of free or low-cost legal aid programs or resources.

Advocacy Organizations in Illinois:

- Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 - **<https://www.ilcadv.org/get-help/>**
 - (877) TO END DV or (877) 863-6338 (Voice)
 - (877) 863-6339 (TTY Hours: 24/7 /365)
- *The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence*
 - **<https://the-network.org/>**
 - 312-527-0730
- *Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault*
 - **<https://icasa.org/>**

State and National Information and Support Services

- *Illinois Call4Calm Text Line*
 - Available if you or a loved one are struggling with stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Text TALK to 552020 for English
 - Text HABLAR for Spanish

- *Illinois Crisis Text Line*
 - Trained crisis counselors to respond to anyone, in any type of crisis
 - Text HELLO to 741741

- *Illinois CARES Line*
 - Available if your child is a risk to themselves or others or having a mental health crisis.
 - 1-800-345-9049
 - 1-773-523-4504 (TTY)

- *National Domestic Violence Hotline*
 - <https://www.thehotline.org/> (online chat available)
 - 1-800-799-7233 (1-800-799-SAFE) | 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
 - [Information on staying safe while sheltering in place](#)

- *National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN)*
 - <https://rainn.org/> (online chat available)
 - 1-800-656-4673 (1-800-656-HOPE)

- *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline*
 - <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> (online chat available)
 - 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK)
 - 1-800-799-4889 (TTY)

You can find additional resources related to Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/Support Resources [here from the IL Department of Public Health](#).

Please note that government entities are receiving a high volume of complaints and inquiries and may be operating with reduced staff at this time. As a result, response times to complaints, email, and telephone calls may be delayed.